

and transportation services, and ensured the improvement of maintenance at local subsidized housing complexes. It has won hard-earned victories in creating low-cost drug programs for seniors, passing legislation to provide home care as an alternative to institutional care, and ending "balance billing" for Medicare patients.

Today, the MSAC has over 1,000 active members of all ages working at the grassroots level to continue to ensure that seniors have access to the resources they need most. Seven chapters throughout Massachusetts provide support, leadership training, and opportunities to advocate for those members of the senior community who otherwise would have no voice.

I join my friends in the North Shore chapter and so many others in congratulating the Massachusetts Senior Action Council on 30 successful years. I wish them the best as they continue to serve as a voice for all vulnerable residents of Massachusetts.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1540) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I rise to express my concerns with repealing Section 526 of the Energy Independence and Security Act through the Fiscal Year 2012 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). This provision of the NDAA would undermine Department of Defense efforts to reduce oil dependence and could cripple America's nascent algal biofuel industry.

Our Armed Forces are making great progress to reduce their dependence on oil in a manner that promotes climate security. For example, the Air Force plans to procure 50 percent of its domestic aviation fuel from alternative sources by 2016. It has already developed the "Green Hornet," a fighter jet that runs on algae-based biofuel. The Navy is in the process of deploying its "Great Green Fleet," which will run entirely on alternative fuels and be operational by 2016.

These improvements to national security parallel new economic opportunities for the biofuel industry. According to the Biotechnology Industry Association, "Section 526 is helping low carbon fuels bridge the 'valley of death' between development and commercialization," and is "already helping the Air Force and Navy meet its alternative fuel goals." The domestic biofuels industry contributes 400,000 jobs and \$53 billion to the American economy while supporting deployment of domestically-produced biofuels for our Armed Forces.

We cannot abort this critical effort to help our military achieve energy independence. It is imperative that repeal of Section 526 be strick-

en from the National Defense Authorization Act before this legislation proceeds to the President for his signature.

THE IMPORTANCE OF SECTION 526 OF THE ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY ACT OF 2007 TO THE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT AND COMMERCIALIZATION OF ADVANCED BIOFUELS

MAY 2011

What Section 526 Does

Prevents federal agencies from purchasing unconventional fuels with higher greenhouse gas emissions than conventional fuels.

Most relevant to the Department of Defense (DOD) because it is the Nation's largest fuel purchaser and is leading federal efforts to support, develop and commercialize domestic alternative sources of fuel for military use.

For instance, the U.S. Air Force intends to procure 50 percent of its domestic aviation fuel from alternative sources by 2016.

Also, the U.S. Navy plans to deploy a "Great Green Fleet" by 2016, which will be entirely operated on alternative fuels.

Why Section 526 Is Important to the United States and to the Advanced Biofuels Industry

Section 526 is helping low carbon fuels bridge the "valley of death" between development and commercialization by preventing large, carbon intensive fossil fuel facilities from crowding out their opportunities. Section 526 is therefore already helping the Air Force and Navy meet its alternative fuel goals and the country move toward greater energy independence and security and create jobs.

The domestic biofuels industry is now contributing more than 400,000 jobs and \$53 billion in new activity to the Nation's economy. A recent report found that additional job creation from advanced biofuels production could reach 807,000 by 2022.

Since its enactment, Section 526 has provided a clear signal that energy security and climate security will be advanced in parallel to federal alternative fuel procurement. This has helped to focus private investment and early DOD testing on advanced biofuels, which offer substantial greenhouse gas reductions in addition to their energy security benefits.

The prospects of a stable and long-term customer in the DOD is a major driver of early investment in advanced biofuels for aviation and marine applications. Eliminating Section 526 could seriously undermine this investment certainty, leading to less and less investment and capital access for advanced biofuels.

Congress must maintain Section 526 to assure continued U.S. leadership on biofuels, especially advanced and cellulosic biofuels for aviation and other military applications. *Advanced Biofuels Companies and Projects That Could Be Negatively Affected if Section 526 Were Eliminated*

The maps below illustrate existing and planned cellulosic biofuel biorefineries and algae production projects at various stages of development in North America.

Currently, there are more than 70 pilot and demonstration advanced biofuel biorefineries across North America—including cellulosic, algae, and other advanced biofuel technologies—representing hundreds of millions of dollars in investment.

There have been successes at each stage of research and development and all are in the process of scaling-up.

Commercial development was slowed by the recession but is regaining momentum as a result of supportive federal programs, such as Section 526, and some thawing of capital markets.

Many of the facilities and projects shown may be negatively impacted by the elimination of Section 526.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 27, 2011

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote on rollcall 376. Had I cast my vote, I would have voted "yea" for rollcall 376. I am proud to support the intelligence community, as well as local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies in their efforts to protect our homeland and combat global terrorism.

CONGRATULATIONS TO AZERBAIJAN ON THEIR 93RD REPUBLIC DAY

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 27, 2011

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Republic of Azerbaijan on the 93rd anniversary of Republic Day on May 28. Additionally, the Republic of Azerbaijan will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of its independence from the Soviet Union.

Azerbaijan has become a critical ally of the United States due both to its location in the Caucasus Region and its access to rich energy sources in the Caspian Sea. Additionally, Azerbaijan has been an example of religious and ethnic tolerance. As a predominantly Muslim country, Azerbaijan has maintained strong and active Jewish and Christian communities.

Azerbaijan was one of the first nations to offer the United States support in the aftermath of 9/11. They have participated in many joint military efforts since their independence and recently doubled their military presence in Afghanistan. They have also offered logistical support for our efforts in Afghanistan, offering refueling stations and over-flight permission.

Once again, I am happy to honor and congratulate Azerbaijan on their 93rd Anniversary of Republic Day. Azerbaijan has been a great ally to the United States, and I think it is important that we highlight all the efforts they have made to support efforts to bring peace and freedom to parts of the world that have known nothing but tyranny.

OPPOSING REPUBLICAN EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE MEDICARE AS WE KNOW IT

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 27, 2011

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to strongly oppose the Republican's plan to eliminate Medicare as we know it. The Republican budget ends the Medicare benefits guarantee and replaces it with an inadequate voucher system where seniors will have to buy their own health insurance in 2022. These actions

will fulfill Republicans' longtime goal of privatizing Medicare. Their plan eliminates critical provisions of the Affordable Care Act, including those that provide no-cost preventative screenings for all seniors and eliminates a 50 percent discount for brand-name drugs for seniors in the 'donut hole.' Above all, the Republican plan increases the age eligibility for Medicare from 65 to 67, raising health care costs for millions of seniors who will have to wait longer to gain access to Medicare.

The plan to dismantle Medicare will have a devastating impact in my district. There are over 76,000 seniors in El Paso, and over 2.4 million seniors in Texas according to the most recent U.S. Census 2010 numbers. Based on Congressional Budget Office (CBO) analysis,

the Republican plan would more than double a senior's out-of-pocket health care spending in 2022, compared to what their costs would be under traditional Medicare—increasing their out-of-pocket costs by more than \$6,000 annually. By 2030, the GOP plan would nearly triple this cost to seniors.

These drastic changes to Medicare are a clear reflection of continued efforts to cut vital services for hardworking families to subsidize tax breaks for millionaires. It is simply irresponsible to balance the budget on the backs of seniors, while millionaires who can afford the high cost of health care, benefit from more tax breaks. Republicans are wrongly targeting vulnerable seniors, many of whom survive on limited incomes. Their plan will undoubtedly

place additional burdens not only on seniors, but on their children, who will bear more costs to help meet the health care needs of their parents. This plan will also have a disproportionate impact on low income communities, such as those in the district that I represent, that will be overburdened with uninsured patients who will use public hospitals to meet their health care needs.

We have an obligation to protect our seniors and ensure they continue to have access to Medicare and receive the health care they need in the years ahead. That is why I will strongly oppose any effort to privatize Medicare and to increase health care costs for seniors.